Sunday December 04, 2022
Call of God

Matthew 4:19
Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Jesus called Peter and Andrew out into His purpose, while they were pursuing what they thought was the purpose of God for their lives. Soon after the call went out to Peter and Andrew, it went out to James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

God has a plan and a purpose for every single one of us. The call of God is God's invitation to participate in His highest and best plan for our lives. He does not necessarily classify it as a "Big Call" or a "Small Call." That is a human manner of classification based on our perception of the roles. For God, every call is significant. The most important thing is to heed the call of God, respond to it and live it out!

The call of God is greater than our job or career. It is beyond just one role and is about the very purpose of our existence.

Live God's Dream

When we live by God's call, we live God's dream. We are able to serve God's Kingdom purposes and fulfil the assignment that He has for our lives.

Jesus completed the plan of redemption (1 John 2:2; Col 2:14,15). Jesus became the atonement lamb who paid for the sins of the world. Through His sacrifice on the Cross we have forgiveness, reconciliation with God and can enforce victory over Satan. Jesus lived out His call and completed it. He said, '*tetelestai*' meaning "it is finished!" (John 19:30).

Apostle Paul received the call of God that turned His life around from being a persecutor of those who believed in Jesus Christ to a proclaimer of the very same Gospel of Jesus Christ. God called him to be a "*chosen vessel to bear the name of Jesus before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel*" (Acts 9:15). To fulfil his call, Paul passionately travelled through at least 50-60 cities across Asia Minor and Europe, covered about ten thousand miles by land and several thousand miles by sea, raised up believing communities that were on fire for God, mentored around 24 leaders referred to as his fellow workers, ministered wisely across cultures, socio-economic strata of society, had 13 epistles attributed to his name, all this and much more in a period of about 20-24 years of ministry! In the last letter which he wrote to Timothy, he spoke of the anticipated end of

his journey knowing that he had completed what God had called him to do. He was in joyful expectation of God's reward.

2 Timothy 4:6-8
6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

To live and finish the call of God is the most exciting adventure we could undertake.
It is the call of God that each of us were designed for.
The call of God is going out and awaits a response.
The call of God is the most satisfying purpose that we could live for.
The call of God is God's dream for us!

1. God's Call is Unique

God called Abram to make him a great nation when his wife Sarai was already old. Abram obeyed, but did battle and overcame unbelief along the way.

God called Moses through a burning bush to be a deliverer when he was in the wilderness. Moses responded with an excuse.

God called Gideon to defeat the oppressor when he was still thinking so small of himself. Gideon responded in doubt.

God called Samuel to be a prophet when he was still a young child in the temple under Eli. Samuel initially did not know how to respond because of his ignorance. And later he committed his entire life to God.

God called, Mary a simple girl to give birth to Jesus as a virgin when she did not feel worthy or ready. Mary responded with a question.

Saul a persecutor, the most unlikely candidate, was God's choice to be a mighty apostle. Saul was overcome by the encounter and sought God the next three days.

Ananias an ordinary believer was called to pray for Paul. He did not know the great destiny that God had for Paul. Ananias was hesitant but soon yielded in obedience.

For each of these people, the call was uniquely theirs. Similarly, God has a special plan and an assignment for each one of us.

Philippians 3:12
Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Apostle Paul talked about a specific "that for which" on the heart of God concerning him. Similarly, God has a specific "that for which" or a specific call that He has in mind for each of us. This call fits the God's master plan for the world.

Romans 12:5
so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We are all members of Christ's body individually and have a role to play that benefits the entire body. Though we have individual callings, fulfilling our roles is done in coordination and for the benefit of everyone else. God does not call one to exclude the other. We are all called uniquely to serve the Kingdom of God.

2. Embrace the Call

1 Corinthians 3:9
For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

God is almighty and sovereign. And yet, God graciously chooses to co-work with man. Every believer is a minister of God (Ephesians 4:11-13). We are all called in some or the other way to serve in God's Kingdom. Some may be engaged directly in serving within a church setting, while many others may be called to serve God outside of church walls, what we term as marketplace ministry. Every ministry and role that God entrusts us with is ours to live out. It is not only our privilege but also a tremendous responsibility. We are accountable to God for what He has called us to do.

God's call for our lives is good. When we respond to the call of God with obedience, we are blessed and so is everyone else (Genesis 12:3).

3. Designed for the Call

Ephesians 2:10
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

When God calls us to something, he equips us. He designs us to have a heart, put on the mind and aides us to be able to accomplish what he wants done. He did not create us

arbitrarily hoping we might somehow fulfil our call. Instead, he painstakingly handcrafted each of us to walk in His wonderful purposes.

We may not have all the answers to the questions of how, when and what? But when we begin walking in faith and obedience, God can then guide us into the fullness of our calling. Our call is associated with our life assignment like Paul was chosen to be an apostle, Moses a leader, Peter a leader of the early church and so on. Our call is also associated with multiple smaller assignments which are still aligned to the overall purpose of God for our lives.

Ephesians 4:7
But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Romans 12:4-6
4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Our gifts correlate with the calling of God. This is a great indicator as we go about discerning our God given assignment or call. We have been given grace (Greek *Charis*) or the divine enablement we need. We have been given gifts (undeserved abilities) from God that tell us where God wants us to be working. Gifts are according to the grace on our lives. This tells us that:

1. If God wants us to work with children with special needs, we will be equipped with the heart and the abilities one needs to do this.
2. If God wants us to run a corporate firm, we will be specially equipped with the heart and abilities to do this
3. If God wants us to work in the area of art, we will be wired for it.

While all can serve in the above areas to some extent, it would take a calling for someone to do this consistently and to have a large impact.

Though we have gifts related to our calling, it doesn't mean that our gifts are mature from the get-go. We have the potential to do what our calling requires. However, one still needs to work on developing all the gifts (spiritual and others). We can grow our abilities, deepen our knowledge, gain understanding, gain experience, walk in wisdom, work with diligent hands and make the journey of months and years to see all the breakthroughs that God has in store!

4. Discern the Call

Many of us may be ignorant of what God wants us to do. Some might have an inner knowing but are not quite clear about their call. Here is the good news! We can all understand what God's call or calling for us is.

It is possible to discern the call of God for our lives, and God aides us in this process. It may sometimes be as quick as hearing His voice from the burning bush or the shining middle-eastern sky on the road to Damascus, but normally it takes a process to grasp the call of God on our lives. One must be willing to make this journey.

Ephesians 5:15–17
15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

We can understand (put together, mentally comprehend) the will (purpose) of the Lord. This encompasses the call of God as well.

God desires for us to know His will. This will require choosing to grow in wisdom and spiritual understanding. It will yield results such as helping us walk worthy of the Lord, fully please Him and be fruitful in every good work (Colossians 1:9–11). The Holy Spirit reveals the purposes of God to the believer (1 Corinthians 2:9,10).

There are nine guideposts that can help in discerning the call of God on our lives. These are discussed in the APC Publication ***Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life***:

1. Recognize the general teaching and instruction of God's Word.
2. Recognize the "seeds" in your life.
3. Recognize the stirring within.
4. Recognize the grace of God given to you.
5. Recognize the circumstances.
6. Recognize the leading of God's Spirit.
7. Recognize godly counsel and wisdom.
8. Recognize times and seasons.
9. Recognize God's pattern of working in your life.

5. Pursue the Call

God's call will not automatically take over our lives. God wants our response in obedience.

We must cooperate with God to fulfil His call on our lives. Recognizing that God has called us is not enough. We must take steps of faith. When Abraham heard the call and plan of God, in obedience He stepped out and began moving in the direction of the call (Hebrews 11:8). God is faithful to release His power to accompany our faith (2 Thessalonians 1:11).

Acts 26:19
"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision

It took Paul 20-24 years of diligent pursuit to accomplish all that he did. Had he not taken steps in the direction of His call, it would've remained dormant. But Paul was obedient to the call. He worked hard, of course with the grace of God (1 Corinthians 15:10).

God's call cannot be lived out without a flourishing relationship with God. It is true that the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable (Romans 11:29), yet yielding fruit which pleases God is only possible when we are connected to Jesus (John 15:5).

God's call must be pursued with God's strength.

God's call must be pursued in God's way. God's way is Holy. God's call is Holy.

2 Tim 1:9
who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

The call that God places on our lives is Holy. We must walk in righteousness because He would never lead us to do things that are against His character. He leads us in the path of righteousness (Psalm 23:4). God's Word instructs us in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16,17). We cannot fulfil the call of God without the instruction of God's Word.

The carnal mind is enmity against God (Romans 8:7). When we serve in our flesh, we may think that we are helping God see His purpose, but we end up giving birth to things that can hinder the purposes of God (Example: Abraham birthing Ishmael)

Steps of faith will lead us ahead with God (Hebrews 11:6). Without faith it is impossible to accomplish what God wants done.

Seasons of Preparation

The call of God is not without preparation. There is an appointed time to step into the fullness of what God has in store for us. God will take us through times of preparation to

help us grow in our commitment to the call, develop the necessary skills and strengthen godly character. These are seasons of preparation and that could also involve tests.

God does not short circuit seasons of preparation. Preparation time is not wasted time. It is better to cooperate with God in these seasons and remain faithful to the call. Sometimes these seasons can be dark, painful, lonely and feel like a tunnel without a ray of light. But, keep moving forward by faith. There is light at the end of the tunnel, because God is walking with you!

- God uses seasons of preparation to work on the inner man and his character.
- God uses seasons of preparation to clarify the vision.
- God uses seasons of preparation to help us develop unwavering resolve.

Example: Jesus launched out into public ministry after 30 years, Apostle Paul is said to have had at least 14 silent years where God was shaping him for what was to come.

6. Committed to the Call

The call is not fulfilled until it is done the way God intended. It will require commitment to fulfil the call.
It is important to make the journey of faith till the finish line.

There can be many giants to conquer along the way. Some common ones are:

1. ***Lack of zeal or passion***
   Though the journey may be long and sometimes hard, never lack in zeal (Romans 12:11)
   Godly zeal is important and we must aim to maintain it (John 2:13-17)
   A lack of zeal might even lead to compromising the call. One must be careful not to do this.

2. ***Fear***
   Fear is faith in the lies of the enemy. Instead, pursue a renewed mind and feed your faith (Romans 10:17)

3. ***Doubts***
   Be anchored to who God is and the certainty of His Word. Be anchored to who you are in Christ. Refuse to make compromises.

4. ***Distractions***
   Satan loves to allure us with distractions (Mark 4:18-20). It helps to identify these distractions early and avoid them. Distractions can result in wasted time and energy. But, when we remain focused, we are at peace and can look forward to the reward (Hebrews 12:2).

5. ***Discouragements***
   As we journey on toward fulfilling our call, we may experience things quite different from what we expected. There could be adverse circumstances as well. No matter what we go through, stay strong, stay in faith and stay encouraged that the God who promised is faithful to do His promises (1 Thessalonians 5:24; Isaiah 41:10)

Commitment to the call requires focus (Example: Elisha).

Commitment to the call involves sacrifices. Sacrifices may be big decisions to stay aligned to what God is speaking to our hearts or they may not necessarily be big things to let go. They can be simple decisions that one needs to make in day-to-day life to conserve time & energy. And to channelize it all for God. Sacrifices may be some lifestyle changes that one must make in order to strengthen their devotion to God.

Remain faithful to the call!

Review

God has a call for us and wants us to live His dream.
This is the best life which we can live!

Some insights about God's call are:
1. God's call is unique.
2. Embrace the call.
3. We are designed for the call.
4. Discern the call.
5. Pursue the call.
6. Stay committed to the call.

SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME
Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday December 04, 2022
Call of God

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon—how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: Philippians 3:12; Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:7; 2 Timothy 1:9.

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1. Why is it important for us to know our calling?
2. Review briefly the six points discussed in the sermon
    i. God's call is unique
    ii. Embrace the call
    iii. We are designed for the call
    iv. Discern the call
    v. Pursue the call
    vi. Stay committed to the call

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes maximum) to share one or two key learnings and to share how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes maximum) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1. families to be protected and strengthened
2. a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3. for the BUILD TO IMPACT project–for God's wisdom and favor as we proceed to acquire the confirmed site.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

God has a purpose and a call for each one of us. When we live by God's call, we live God's dream. To live and finish the call of God is the most exciting adventure we could undertake. The call of God is the most satisfying purpose that we could live for. In this sermon, we understand that God has a unique call for everyone and that call integrates into His master plan for the world. The call of God on our lives will not be fulfilled automatically, but requires a response from us. God has equipped and designed us to flow in His calling. We have the ability to discern God's call on our lives. Once we recognize the call, it's important to pursue it, stay committed to it and fulfil it!

KEYWORDS

Plan, purpose, calling, dream, gifts, call of God, co-labor with God, Journey with God, Journey of faith, fulfil the purpose of God, called, anointed, appointed, grace of God, Live God's Dream, God's call is unique, Embrace the call, Designed for the call, Discern the call, Pursue the call, Committed to the call, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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